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The Highlander

Haliburton County's Independent Newspaper

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Hope rides on the trails

By Terrance Gavan

The Highlands' most viable winter draw, snowmobiling, suffered a significant blow over the Christmas holidays. Extended warm weather, rain, and lack of snow have kept snowmobile trails closed for the duration of the holiday season. The drought is province wide and has negatively affected the bottom lines of many tourist-based communities.

No snow means no trails, and no trails means no sledders. No sledders means empty hotels, empty restaurants and sagging tourism.

We should remember that the winter economy here in the Highlands is not exactly exuberant. Many local businesses rely on sledders and their buzz-saw, gas-eating machines for winter sustenance. The sled-enthusiasts are therefore a welcome boost to the Highlands winter economy; there aren't many people coming to sit and navel-gaze on a frozen dock.

So it was alarming when joint announcements from the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) and the OPP on Dec 23 placed a pall over Christmas for Haliburton County businesses. "With the delayed onset of winter throughout much of the province, the Ontario Provincial Police and the OFSC are warning snowmobilers that snow and ice conditions in southern Ontario and many parts of northern Ontario are unlikely to be safe for travel by snowmobile during the holidays," said the release. "The smart choice is not to ride a snowmobile during this time."

Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA) president Joachim Matysek is staying the course and looking at a half-full glass of de-icing fluid. But the Trail Page of the HCSA website (www.hcsa.on) has a chart listing all the trails in the system, and when *The Highlander* went to



Shawn Chamberlin and Donna Gagnon appeared as poets Bob Dylan and Joan Baez at Minden's Dominion Hotel last Friday (Dec 30). Chamberlin, who is also the affable owner of the Dominion, sponsored *The Dead Poets Salute to Rebel Poets Night*. Proceeds went to Places For People. See story on page 7. **Photo By Terrance Gavan.**

press all 22 trails listed still said "closed".

Matysek is updating the website regularly and tells sledders to monitor conditions there. "It [was] a warm December, no snow and no cold to freeze the swamps and lakes," says Matysek on the website. "The snow had started to arrive and stay as of Dec 22, but as of today we do not have enough to groom or pack the trails. We require 20 cm of snow to start packing the snow and 30 cm of snow before we send any groomers out. At present we have 8 cm of snow on the ground."

If he sounds a little exasperated it's only because he is.

Joachim Matysek

HCSA president

"No trails are open and the lakes aren't ready for travel."

We had a chance to talk with Matysek on Tuesday morning and the situation remains just a tad desolate.

"We're sitting about the same as we were in our last website report," says Matysek, who also owns Sandy Lane Resort. "We need snow. We need the cold to tighten up the swamps, because you have the large groomer that we can't send in until those swamps can support the weight."

Matysek said that since most of Haliburton County trails run through bush and onto lakes, the safety-first rule must take precedence. "No trails are open and the lakes aren't ready for travel," says Matysek. "No one should go on lakes right now and we urge everyone to stay off trails until there are stakes on lakes and trails."

continued on page 2

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TODAY

County news

Hospital expects virus outbreak to run course



Paul Rosebush
CEO HHHS
"Norovirus is a persistent bug and takes a while to eradicate."

By: Terrance Gavan

Regular visiting privileges at Haliburton Hospital are on hold for at least another three days, says Paul Rosebush, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS).

"An outbreak of the Norovirus occurred in the acute care unit on Dec 23," said Rosebush on Tuesday afternoon. "We've had four patients infected with Norovirus and it's been well managed, but it's a persistent bug and takes a while to eradicate."

"We've limited visitation to the hospital, except in emergency situations, and at present only one of the four patients is still showing signs of infection."

Noroviruses are commonly found throughout North America and are very infectious. They affect the gastro-intestinal system and symptoms include vomiting and diarrhea. Norovirus illnesses occur throughout the year, but are more common in winter months and affect all age groups. There is no vaccine that will prevent a Norovirus infection; although people often

describe it as "stomach flu" it is not an influenza virus.

Rosebush added that the hospital will be declared Norovirus-free only after the last patient is asymptomatic for a stipulated period of time. "We wait 5 days after the last symptom is gone, before declaring the ward symptom-free," said Rosebush.

Rosebush explained that the Norovirus is not isolated to hospitals. "If you know anyone that's been sick with the flu lately, it's probably a version of the Norovirus." And that's the reason visitation is limited. "People are coming in with the virus, and folks are catching it."

Emergency room services have not been affected.

Rosebush said the cure is pretty simple. "We isolate the patients, make them as comfortable as possible, and give them lots of fluids," he said. Typically the flu runs its course in 24 to 48 hours.

"We feel good that we've been able to contain it," said Rosebush. "And we are waiting for a resolution soon."

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CIBC and Davis Lake Cottagers' donate over \$15,000 to Point in Time

Bryan Baker of CIBC Wood Gundy / Baker Financial Group, and his partner Andrea Matheson, representing the Davis Lake Cottagers Association, present cheques to Marg Cox of Point in Time Centre. The CIBC Wood Gundy / Baker Financial Group cheque was for \$12,000 and the Davis Lake Cottagers Association donation was for \$3,575.

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Freeze brightens snowmobiling forecast

continued from page 1

He says that the first trail open should be the new trail system in Minden.

"Thanks to Barb Reid we can run between Haliburton and the new trails in Minden," says Matysek. "When we get enough snow to open that route, hopefully we can spider out from there."

And the sledders are being patient. "They're waiting and hopefully we'll get some snow after today," adds Matysek. "We'll send out the utility sleds and they pack the trails which helps drive the frost into the ground and especially the swamp areas."

"We need this [cold weather] because it's been a real rollercoaster this season. It's been a bit of a slow process because the trails are only as good as the weakest spot. I've had a few calls asking about grooming; 99 percent [of the riders] are understanding and they know that in the Haliburton area we have to be extra careful because the rocks can do a lot of damage."

As the owner of Sandy Lane Resort, Matysek is well versed and immersed in the vagaries of the winter economy. He says that his bookings have been down over Christmas, but he expects that things will level out with the arrival of the first blizzard.

"It's part of the winter fabric up here," says Matysek. "We all need the snow."

Susan Lee, CFP
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County news

Grow local Sustainable food movement gathering steam

By Will Jones

It may feel like we're only just entering winter proper, but already lots of local people are planning for next year's harvest — and they're planning to grow a more sustainable Haliburton.

This may sound like marketing-speak — “Sustainable Haliburton, the eco tourist's paradise” — but in reality it's a concerted effort by individuals and groups to grow local food, eat healthy and rely less on produce shipped into our county from thousands of miles away.

Haliburton's grain CSA (community-supported agriculture) is one example of local people coming together to grow their own food. Organiser David Bathe says, “I love homemade bread and so I figured, how difficult can it be to grow my own grain? After all, it's basically gardening, just one that most people don't consider.”

As Bathe investigated just what he was getting himself into, he happened upon information about grain CSAs in the US and wondered whether such a scheme could work in Haliburton.

“This was our first year, our first harvest and I think we did pretty well,” says Bathe. “The amount of grain we each got for our 50 bucks was comparable to buying organic produce from a store, so no one lost out, and the knowledge we gained will serve well to hopefully increase the yield next year.”

Bathe's plan is to work with farmers in the future, rather than doing all of the work with fellow shareholders. “I'd really like to see one or more farmers work with us, producing pesticide-free grain,” he says. “Creating work opportunities for local people, as well as growing food locally, are my goals.”

Abbey Gardens a model of sustainability

The CSA model is also being planned by another Haliburton initiative, Abbey Gardens. The vision of John Patterson is that Abbey Gardens will one day become a global tourist attraction focusing on sustainability and local food production. Patterson envisages vast demonstration greenhouses filled with edible produce, grown using wholly-sustainable methods. He sees tourists visiting from afar and leaders in the field of environmentalism lecturing to their peers as well as to school children. Patterson wants to teach Canada to grow its own food and to become more self sufficient.

But even big dreams have to start with small actions. Patterson has employed a project manager to oversee his vision and a garden manager to begin by growing and selling locally.

Following its second harvest, Abbey Gardens' half-acre plot has yielded enough veggies and meat (chickens) to supply a store in West Guilford, sell at the farmers' market, and provide vegetable boxes to a test group of local people.

“Next summer we'll be doubling our acreage and hopefully our harvest, opening a store on-site and offering veg boxes via a CSA scheme to the public,” says garden manager, Garth Browes. He is already digging irrigation ditches and preparing his beds for the 2012 season.

Project manager Janine Papadopoulos tells of the wider objectives of Abbey Gardens. “What we are trying to do is build a sustainable community; to create something that will allow everyone to participate and benefit. We want to encourage other producers to sell their produce at our shop and we'll also work with them to help them grow as we do. Our ideology is to involve other small businesses, not compete against them, and, if we do our job properly



The 1/2 acre plot at Abbey Gardens yielded enough vegetables and chickens to supply farmers markets and a store in West Guildford. It's only the beginning — John Patterson's plan is to build greenhouses to extend the short growing season, filling them with edible produce.

everyone will benefit — the producers, the community and the environment.”

Abbey Gardens has the potential to grow into something that could change the way a province or a nation thinks about its food production, and it's growing (literally) in our backyard. Maybe there's some credence in that marketing-speak.

Rosie Kadwell, of Haliburton Highlands Local Food Coalition, agrees with Papadopoulos. “Connecting the producers, creating networks between them and the community is vital,” she says. “There are lots of opportunities because people — individuals and businesses such as restaurants — want to buy local, safe food. The climate is right. We just need to push to keep up the momentum of these types of projects.”

Haliburton in Transition (HinT) is another initiative beginning small but with big ideas. Part of the now global transition movement, Haliburton's burgeoning group is full of ideas about how it can make our local community more sustainable.

Eric Lilius, instigator of HinT in February 2010, highlights the growing concern surrounding the availability of oil, climate change and global financial instability. “The existing paradigm doesn't work, but it won't just roll over and die,” says Lilius. “So, while governments prop up corrupt corporations, we have to make our own plans to become more resilient. We have to make our own community stronger.”

HinT has put numerous initiatives into action. It launched a website that is populated with eco-ideas — from gardening tips to compost toilets and beer can solar heaters. The organisation has collected data and connected with over 200 local groups such as the municipal health unit, farmers' markets, water doublers and seed collectors. “The idea was to connect with likeminded people and see how we could work with them,” says steering committee member Kaarina Blackie. “Our idea

is not to rewrite the sustainability handbook but to follow and assist existing groups; be involved and further all of our causes.”

HinT has helped members to extend their potential vegetable growing season. Lilius describes days where the group gets together to communally build hoop houses: “It's a great way to bring people together and also to actually build resilience into our lives.”

Kadwell agrees. “People need to be informed about the bigger picture but they also need to see how they can make a difference locally, too. The type of work that HinT is doing

provides a great overview but also promotes direct action, and so it connects with local people on multiple levels.”

However Kadwell understands that not everyone has the space or resources to build their own garden. This is not a barrier to getting involved, though. “The community garden schemes are a great way to learn about gardening and try it firsthand,” she says.

“And, supporting local producers via garden

gate sales, the farmers' markets and CSAs is another way to sustain and bolster the local economy while reducing the carbon footprint of the food that you buy.”

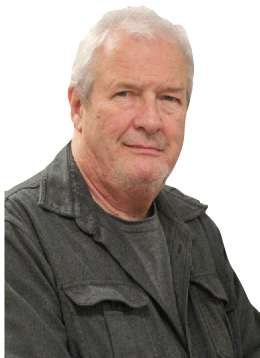
HinT and Kadwell's ideas about connecting with people on large and small scale are indicative of why Haliburton is growing into a more sustainable community. Far from it being too small to matter, or to take positive action, its size means that new environmental networks, local food initiatives and CSAs are not lost amidst the melee of everyday life. It means that everybody hears about them and people feel connected enough to want to join in, to get really involved.

For more information about local food initiatives, a good place to start is www.haliburtonfresh.com. The site lists retailers, producers, events and groups involved in local food in Haliburton County.



Back to the land: Haliburton's grain CSA saw its first harvest in 2011, delivering organic, locally-grown grain to its members.

Editorial opinion



By Stephen Patrick

Canada, Harper, and Liberal angst

No, the sky's not falling – just yet.

In the past 14 months voters across Ontario had the rare opportunity to cast their ballots for all three levels of government. I can't remember such a confluence of political activity in one short period in the recent past – the spike in global warming floating upwards from this corner of the earth must surely have been of epic proportions – where was our National Geographic special?

The three elections produced some breathtaking surprises. For example here at home Minden Hills voters defied conventional wisdom and elected all four of their "Vision Team" with relative ease.

Provincially and nationally, voters conspired to confound the assembled punditi, including this jaded observer. First, they bestowed a much-coveted majority on Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his Conservatives, boosted the NDP to Official Opposition status, and in the process virtually destroyed the Bloc Quebecois and the federal Liberals. You could argue that official separatism has not been so contained since the late 1950s when Le Chef, the nationalist Maurice Duplessis, and the Church still held Quebec in their iron grip (while at the same time the provincial electorate consistently sent federalist Liberals to Ottawa).

In Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty seized victory from the jaws of defeat as Conservative chief Tim Hudak ran a bizarre retro campaign that was rejected summarily in urban Ontario, although supported, perhaps grudgingly, across most of our rural ridings. Here at home MPP Laurie Scott won in a landslide. But before the federal and provincial results were in, Torontonians had given right-winger Rob Ford a huge mandate as mayor – go figure. Perhaps a couple of months of Mayor Ford convinced not a few Torontonians to repent of their ways and shift a little to the left.

But the biggest story had to be the demise of the federal Liberals, long seen as Canada's "natural governing party." Heavens, the doyen of Canadian political journalism, Peter C. Newman even wrote a book about it (*When the Gods Change: the Death of Liberal Canada*). Newman posits that with the Liberals' decimation in last spring's election and relegation to third party status, a progressive Canada is done for. "Harper's victory meant that the country will never be the same — might even have to change its name since it will no longer be recognizable."

The irony of this apocalyptic point of view is that it is precisely this kind of arrogance and lack of connection with mainstream Canada that led to the Liberals' downfall. No wonder Newman rarely enjoyed the confidence of Conservatives, despite his wooing of the country's capitalist barons in unending, flattering profiles.

Well, to quote Aislin's famous cartoon published the day after René Lévesque won power in Quebec: "take a Valium". The country will survive Stephen Harper's still-tepid version of Ronald Reagan North. Sure, there are some members of his caucus who would fit happily in with the loonier social and economic conservatives currently making runs at the U.S. presidency. But for every one of those, there are significant numbers of Conservatives who recognize Canada's unique blend of public and private enterprise and its dedication to social and cultural fairness and diversity.

Despite Federal Minister John Baird's just-announced and truly scary Office of Religious Freedom, our evolving country surely has the strength to survive a term or two of conservative ideology. And don't forget, the federal Liberal Party still has some strength and a wily old fox in Bob Rae to shepherd it through these tough times.

The old cliché that "a week is a lifetime in politics" applies. Just ask Michael Ignatieff, or Gilles Duceppe.



By Bram Lebo

A fresh start

New years are times to assess and look ahead to the blank canvas before us. What world will we create for ourselves in 2012? Many, finally, will have resolved to quit smoking. It's perhaps the most valuable improvement a person can ever make to his or her health, but as we all know, it's not an easy task.

I was a committed smoker, in the way that far more admirable people commit to finishing college or winning an Olympic event. I could time my duty-free trips to the last puff to maximize the smoke-per-buck ratio, and had mastered the art of the butt-break to get enough nicotine down in 10 minutes to last almost until lunch.

When the public health campaigns stepped up, smokers like me retreated to our smoking areas and stairwells, still committed to the cause. No, I did not feel rebellious; I felt addicted, in the manner of a person who plans the next cigarette while still smoking the last one. A 13-hour plane trip in 1995 nearly did me in.

At some point, not long after starting really, you stop owning the cigarettes and they start owning you. Between then and the time you finally stop — and one way or another, you will stop — it can be a long ride of self-recrimination and angst. You will stop eventually of course; preferably it will be the easy way (quitting) and not the hard way, the way tobacco companies don't want you to think about.

When you look at it like that, the options become clearer, though by no means any easier. I had tried quitting about four times before it actually took. Of course, I had made New Year's resolutions. I had sworn off smoking on December 31 of various years, only to break my vow days, sometimes only hours later.

There was always a good reason: a smoke to get over a New Year's hangover; just a few puffs to help with the stress of a new school term; or the old trick of pretending I wasn't actually smoking if I hadn't bought the cigarettes myself.

It was only when I discovered a bit of a Jedi mind trick that I had success. It was not January first, but April — 1997 to be exact — when I awoke once again in one of those tar-induced states where it feels like your head is full of mucus for no particular reason. Trudging to the mirror, the vellum tongue and puffy face finally shocked me into reality. I had to stop.

Wise enough to my own ways, I gave my stash to the landlady and slapped on a patch. The patch does help, and I'm not above using a crutch for such a momentous task. But you need more than a patch, to quit what has been called by scientists a drug as addictive as heroin. But patch or no, I wasn't really ready.

So, I decided that I would not quit smoking.

Quitting would be too scary. Too final. I had tried it before and ended up cheating, playing games with myself until one cigarette a day became three, then a pack-a-day and cartons at the duty free.

What I did instead of quitting smoking was resolve not to have the next cigarette. Just the *next* one. I allowed myself to want them; I just wasn't going to have *that* one. Maybe some other time, I'd say to myself. Or simply, *why would you want to do that?*

It is now 15 years later and I've still not had that next cigarette. Oh, I think about it, fondly sometimes; I dream about it and wake up cursing that I've blown 15 years of abstinence.

But I haven't. Five minutes at a time, I've become a much healthier and happier person, no longer indentured to a box of smelly carcinogens.

I share this personal story with our readers because I know many would like to quit smoking. It doesn't have to be this week, but if you can take on that challenge in 2012 it will be one of the best things you've ever done — for yourself, for your loved ones and for every taxpayer in the Province. Everyone deserves a fresh start.

Letters to the Editor

Re: Holiday Season Reflections

Dear Editor:

Stephen doesn't even try to get Holy Day out of Holiday, and despite the fact that Christmas day is the reason for that day's celebration, he can't get beyond a soporific "Happy Holiday".

I'm just quoting Ken Gallinger's column, "Ethically Speaking" in the Saturday Star (Dec 24), who discusses the subject in a rather convincing manner.

Sincerely,
Bruce Armstrong

Give us your opinion –
letters@haliburtonhighlander.ca

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Letters to the Editor



Minden reader Michael Stinson says filling a ditch to accommodate snowmobilers may pose a flood risk to nearby homes if proper drainage is not installed.

Fix the ditch

Dear Editor:

There is a possible lawsuit pending against Minden Hills over poor trail design. This is a warning to Reeve Barb Reid, Recreation Director Rick Cox, Councilors of Minden Hills, HCSA, HATV and to Haliburton County Development Corp, putting them on notice about a possible pending lawsuit.

Even though it appears to be money well spent on the new Snowmobile and ATV trail through Minden, there could be a possible lawsuit costing the taxpayers a staggering amount.

The portion of the trail accessing Anson Street in Minden must go through a deep roadside ditch which will be filled and compacted by the snow groomers. This ditch must be clear to allow early Spring water run off in the Anson St area flood zone. I understand there will not be an installment of culvert piping in this ditch to prevent flooding of the neighbourhood homes. Local neighbours' concerns have fallen on deaf ears.

We want sledders back but we do not want taxpayers' money to be used for a legal battle over a poor trail design.

Don't dread the sleds, but please: fix the ditch.

Michael Stinson
Minden

Who Says?

Dear Editor:

In regard to Margery Cartwright's letter on the matter of grammar, may I offer a little tongue in cheek rebuttal?

Being an avid reader and a novice writer, I take issue with someone who insists on using only the King's English. I have a question for these language police: just who says the current population cannot change or add to the English language? After all, language has evolved continually since we were all living in caves, presumably communicating by grunts, facial expression, and hand gestures. So, at what point did we say, alright, now we have a language and you writers out there have to abide by the rules. Whose rules?

It is understandable that punctuation be a rule, but language? Language only a few hundred years ago was different and has evolved to what it is now. Look at other dialects. Quebecers speak an entirely different French, than the people of France. South American Spanish is different than that of Spain. Use a language interpreter in Google, you will see three different versions when converting English to Spanish.

My point is, that when I pick up a book I want to be able to enjoy reading it, to understand what the writer is trying to say, allowing the reader to be pulled into the story. Drives me nuts when a writer insists on using words not used in decades, but maybe that is just me not being as literate as a language professor.

A number of words are added to the English dictionary every year. And it makes sense to me that some words are dropped from our vocabulary. That is the way it has been for centuries. It's called the evolution of a language. Maybe we should have stuck to grunts and hand gestures, although some still use the hand gestures everyone understands.

Don't get me started on the spelling in the English language. Probably have Latin and a few other languages to thank for all the Ps, the Ks, and the extra vowels. Why do we expect our kids to spell something that makes no sense? Thank goodness for spell check, but even it is American spelling.

My apologies to Margery and everyone else for any mistakes in the writing. That's what editors are for.

Ted Cumber
Gooderham

Re: Former MPP disappointed in throne speech vote

Dear Editor:

Up until now I had a lot of regard for former MPP Johnson. He, unlike a number of his supporters, seemed to have accepted defeat and was moving on with his life. His recent letter to some local newspapers would seem to indicate otherwise.

Mr. Johnson seems to infer that Ms. Scott's votes should be tied to the relative vote from the October General Election rather than to the wishes of the people who actually voted for her. There were three political philosophies offered up on October 11: the NDP — take everything from the wealthy so that the poor can be equal; the Liberal — take everything from everybody and redistribute so that your organized labour support will continue to flourish; and the Progressive Conservative — the everyday working person deserves a fair shake. The electorate in HKLB selected the PC philosophy.

Mr. Johnson has a very short memory. In the 2007 general election, Mr. Johnson received 14,327 votes, or 29.4 percent of the vote, and lost to Ms Scott by almost 10,000 votes. In the 2009 by-election, Mr. Johnson received 15,542 votes, 1215 votes more than in 2007, or 44.4 percent of the vote. The PCs received 14,595 votes, 41.4 percent of the vote or 947 votes less than in 2007 — and with 28 percent less turn out at the polls.

This narrow margin didn't stop Mr. Johnson from voting against his constituents, in favour of the HST—the largest tax grab in Ontario in history, or in favour of the Green Energy Act which has taken away the right of local constituents to decide where and if they want to establish unsightly wind turbines that will cause their families no end of health issues.

In the 2011 General Election, Mr. Johnson received 16,522 votes (980 more than in 2009), or 33.5 percent of the vote, and Ms. Scott received 22,352 votes, or 45.3 percent of the vote—1 percent more than Mr. Johnson in 2007 — with a 40 percent increase in voter turn out. Ms Scott has earned the right to represent her constituents by a clear majority of the electorate—unlike Mr. Johnson in 2009.

Shortly after Ms Scott's nomination in September 2010, Kawartha This Week Editor-in-Chief Lois Tuffin wrote "...I'd like to see Mr. Johnson earn his spot if he is re-elected. The last election was an anomaly and it really paid off for him, especially when stimulus funding rolled into the riding shortly after he took office." Obviously Mr. Johnson didn't earn his spot and as of right now should get over it. In elections there are winners and losers — he lost. There should be no room for whiners as well.

F. Reaburn, City of Kawartha Lakes

The Outsider — New Year's Reconstitution

My New Year's resolution?

You say you didn't ask. Oh well, I'm going to tell you anyway.

I have numerous resolutions, the lesser of which (and as such the ones most likely to be broken) are, in no particular order: to paint the exterior of my house; to recycle and compost properly; and, to stop writing in this column about my now-dead but wonderfully tasty pig, until we get another one in spring, that is.

But these are mere trifling resolutions when compared to my main goal for 2012. At risk of destroying my all-too-proper English reputation and rendering my guise as 'The Outsider' obsolete, my most important New Year's resolution is to become more Canadian.

This may sound simple to you, but then again you are Canadian. Imagine if you were to try to become more English; it would mean restraining those whoops and hollers in favour of a round of polite applause; learning how to studiously ignore folk when out promenading in the village; and having to wear itchy tweed pants; and by pants I mean underpants, not trousers, goddamit! You get the picture.

For me, becoming more Canadian — or to be precise, more Haliburtonian — is all about doing what you folks do. Again, "simple" I hear you say, but you are wrong, very

wrong. Let me explain.

I'll start with sports. Being Canadian means not just enjoying, but totally understanding the niceties, nuances and niggles of ice hockey, a game so swift that my English eyes are not even accustomed to move quickly enough to see the puck. It means learning the rules of baseball — how can it be a foul pole if the ball can be called fair when hitting it (thanks Mr Gavan)? And, I have to try to understand just what all those people in flat-bottomed shoes are doing shunting giant donuts around ice rinks with brooms. Hmm.

I won't mention American football, partly because it's American and mostly because it's a stupidly disjointed game with too many ad breaks, too many players, too many referees, too many fat, semi-naked stomach-painted-orange-green-blue (delete as applicable) fans and too much under-shirt padding. Made my mind up on that a long time ago.

Then there are the outdoor activities. To be more Canadian I have to learn to ski, not just downhill but also along the flat bits and up hill, too. I have to strap on skates, the blades of which look more like something I'd carve my Sunday roast with, rather than teeter around a frozen pond on, backwards, if the aforementioned ice hockey players are to be emulated.

I can fish, reasonably well, although local knowledge and technique is something that will only come with lots of

practice (do you hear that, lovely wife of mine?). I've never shot anything in my life; a brave admission in a county where bagging your first buck is right of passage for many a twelve-year-old boy. But, if I did get my hands on a gun and held it steady enough to plug a deer, I'd then need to learn how to operate an ATV before I could drag the animal out of the bush.

Finally, for this year's resolution at least, there are local oddities that I have to get my head around, in order to better understand the Haliburtonian psyche. Why, for instance, are there hundreds of shoes nailed to that tree on South Lake Road? Which is the right way out of the Blairhamptons? Where do all the seniors migrate to in winter? What do you folks use to stop the bugs biting? Who is the buxom hiker that has been immortalised in statue form on the side of the Gull River in Minden? And, when is the best time to go ice fishing, considering it's bloody freezing all winter long!

My New Year's resolution sounded simple, didn't it, but you folk are an interesting, idiosyncratic lot and a challenge to fully fathom. I'll do my best though and report back next winter with the results, eh. See, I'm getting it already!



By Will Jones

Highlander arts

State of the Arts



By Victoria Ward

Art speaks across time

2012. I just didn't think I would be experiencing writing and saying 2012. When I was young I was often told that Russia had missiles pointing right at us and we might just get blown into oblivion if they decided to go to real war.

And I was also told that, by now, computers would have created a four-day week and that we would be flying around in personal machines; neither happened. In fact I am still here without the aid of personal flight and working many more days than just four in a week.

This is what is so odd and deeply disturbing about time. One day you're at Lollapalooza going hoarse from singing along to Jane's Addiction, the next you can't stay awake during The Daily Show.

As an artist I am often pondering time and its various meanings. Last year I had an extraordinary experience. At the National Gallery in London, England I happened upon a room of Rembrandts. Among these jaw dropping works was a self-portrait.

Rembrandt (1606-69) lived during the Dutch Empire and was the most celebrated artist of his day. At the height of his career, however, he did something that angered his patrons (see the Peter Greenaway film about him, *Nightwatching*) and became *persona non grata* to the elite. Eventually he went bankrupt, his wife died and he spent the rest of his life in dire poverty. Yet he never gave up painting and made some remarkable work during those times.

Back to the self-portrait: it was painted just after his fall from grace. There I stood looking back into time, which is what you do when looking at master works. He seemed reconciled and gentle. He looked out at me with these sage, worn eyes. Admittedly, this is all projection on my part, but I felt as though he was conveying all the hardship an artist goes through if they remain steadfast.

And for the first time ever at a gallery, I burst into tears. Perhaps it was jet lag. Or was it that I had time-traveled in that minute to experience a moment in that man's life? Rembrandt's disappointments and triumphs were channeled in an instant through oil and canvas.

In any case, my emotions came rushing out of me like a tidal wave and I had to sit and compose myself. Time meant nothing, suddenly, because the Rembrandt portrait conveyed an emotional presence that connected with me, a 21st century gal, standing in a very crowded gallery, in a very crowded city, on a very crowded planet. Once again the 'power of art' as historian Simon Schama calls it, had made its point.

Although I work in an isolated way, as many artists do, I feel connected to something bigger. Experiencing art allows my world to open up. I use my visitations to galleries as a way to explore our world; art can be transformational not unlike a religious, or other deeply emotional experience.

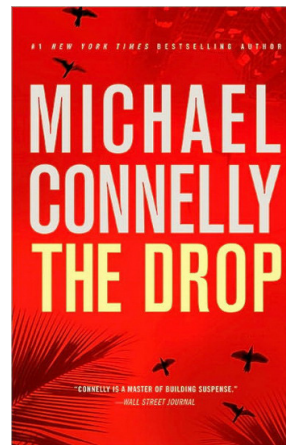
It was, after all, the Stations of the Cross in our yearly Easter mass that made me want to be an artist. As the congregation moved from one fresco to the next in our church, I had my own epiphany: this is how you connect with the world, through a visual representation of story and parable.

Rembrandt needed no mythic coaxing; he was good from the start. His skill became renowned before he was 25. But he was human and had great difficulty in making a living from his prodigious talent. His arrogance, intelligence and subversiveness got the best of him.

The injustice he suffered, such as it was, should never have forced his value to plummet. In fact his work and influence make him one of the most valued artists ever. But art's value always plays cat-and-mouse with time and history. Rembrandt's story is but one among many.

I just have to remember that it isn't a member of the business elite of renaissance Holland who is now on everyone's lips, or for whom one has traveled thousands of miles to see. The work of an artist fits that bill.

Art does something different to us than most things. We want to see an intimate experience writ large; we want to look and be looked at by work that survives us. We see the eternal in great artwork and it makes us feel reassured, part of something bigger. It can even make us cry.



Haliburton County's Hot Reads

The following are the top five fiction and non-fiction titles as requested at the Haliburton County Public Library for the week of January 2nd - 8th.

HCPL's TOP 5 FICTION

- 1: *The Drop* by Michael Connelly
- 2: *Zero Day* by David Baldacci
- 3: *1225 Christmas Tree Lane* by Debbie Macomber
- 4: *The Litigators* by John Grisham
- 5: *Kill Alex Cross* by James Patterson

HCPL's TOP 5 NON-FICTION

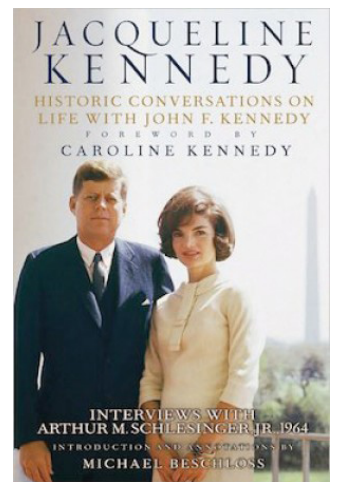
- 1: *Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with JFK*
- 2: *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson
- 3: *From This Moment On* by Shania Twain
- 4: *The Wealthy Barber Returns* by David Chilton
- 5: *Three Cups of Deceit* by Jon Krakauer

New to HCPL's Fiction list is *The Litigators*, John Grisham's latest legal thriller which was released in late October. It follows a bottom-of-the-barrel Chicago law firm attempting to strike it rich in a class action lawsuit over a cholesterol drug. Apparently, this novel is actually quite humorous. Publishers Weekly called it a "bitingly farcical look at lawyers at the bottom of the food chain." Many anticipate this will inspire the creation of an adapted screenplay in the near future.

Of Grisham's 25 books, 11 of them have already been adapted into feature films. Having nearly half of your novels become movies is a pretty impressive track record! This year, be on the lookout for his upcoming releases *Calico Joe* and, for kids aged 8-13, *Theodore Boone 3*.

LIBRARY NEWS

Haliburton County Public Library has new hours for 2012. Visit www.haliburtonlibrary.ca/hours.pdf to see the updates. Minden and Dysart hours remain the same.



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Highlander arts

Dead Poets salute dead rebels

By Terrance Gavan

Review

The Dominion Hotel – Home of the Dead and Live Poets
December 30, 2011

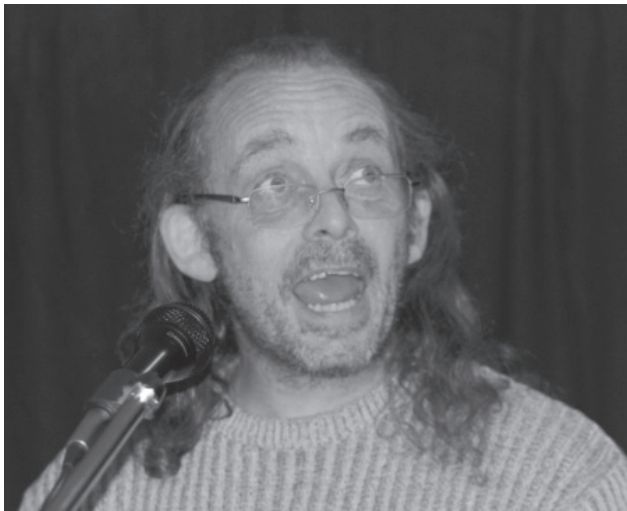
“Venit, vidi, legitur, vici.”

For those of you not in receipt of five years of private school Latin, I shall loosely interpret this quote for your edification: “They came, we saw, they read, they conquered.”

Last Thursday, on the eve of New Year’s Eve, poets occupied the Dominion Hotel in Minden. The Dead Poets Society has been meeting at the old Dominion for years, and their poetry nights are always accompanied by a cause.

Last Thursday the poets gathered to celebrate poetic rebels, and also to put some cash into the coffers of Places for People. As usual, the evening matched the theme perfectly. Local cards, some poets and the usual suspects arrived; Brian McSweeney, Billy Bragg, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Vera Brittain and Alan Ginsberg were there.

And if you are doing some math, yes some of those poets are clearly un-dead. But rules are flaunted by poets of stature and ‘tis no different here in the Highlands. The evening highlight was a duet by Bob and Joan – Dominion owner and host, Shawn Chamberlin, and Donna Gagnon-Pugh. Best-costumed poet was local laureate John Unrah – playing 19th



Doug Pugh appeared as rebel beat era poet Alan Ginsberg at the Dominion Hotel last Friday (Dec 30).

century swain, Charles Swinburne – who appeared rather ambiguously in period garb and a huge, unruly bundle of red curls atop his head. Picture Lucy Ricardo, fallen on hard times, pushing her worldly possessions in a shopping cart to the shelter. Master of Ceremonies Michael Fay doubled his

trouble with a beautiful interpretation of poet Roque Dalton.

The Highlander questions the efficacy of a salute to rebel poets that failed to include Charles Bukowski, but other than that it was one heck of an evening of fun and winsome verse. The Dead Poets Salute to Rebel Poets was most memorable for its attempt to place perspective on the rebels in the streets today. And for the reminder that issues of poverty, war, greed, and power run amok have always been addressed first by the poets, the playwrights, the writers and the troubadour.

Our review, of course and as always, must be delivered in kind. And try to keep in mind that your reporter and ink-stained wretch is an award-winning poet.

“They read, they bled, they fed, and what the hell? They’re dead?”

We heard new rebels espousing old themes of meritocracy and class. “Occupy this and occupy that. They occupied Minden... at the drop of a hat.”

Rebel poets? Poets have always led the way, and metaphorically pulled the sleigh.

“On dancers, and Dylan and Baez, no Nixon. Deads canter, some banter, like Ginsberg and Brittain.” Reined deer and heavy loads.

Fay thanked the host, Bob Dylan (Chamberlin) and the Dominion Hotel for supporting the Dead Poets.

For pictures and more see the story at haliburtonhighlander.ca.

Get your acting groove on

Call for auditions for Highlands Summer Festival

By Jack Brezina

Opportunities abound on stage for actors, singers and dancers this summer.

The Highlands Summer Festival (HSF) has issued its annual audition call with over 40 potential on-stage positions up for grabs. The audition call was issued just before the new year and covers four productions:

Colours in the Storm; *The Tom Thomson Story*; *Within Reach*; *Arsenic and Old Lace*; and *Steel Magnolias*.

Each production requires a variety of actors with varying skills.

Colours in the Storm is a musical telling of the story of painter

Tom Thomson. *Within Reach* is a youthful production which will be developed by the participants, telling the story of young girls’ struggle for educational equality. The farce *Arsenic and Old Lace* is dotted with quirky characters of all ages, and *Steel Magnolias* will feature six small town women in a story of friendship, love and just a bit of gossip.

As a regionally-based community theatre, the Highland Summer Festival includes in its mandate the development of performing arts skills, especially among the young, in the community.

In response to that mandate, the Festival welcomes experienced as well as first-time actors to its stage. Over the years, many members of our community have

stepped onto the stage for the first time in a production of the HSF. The company has also developed a troupe of experienced actors who return each year to share the fun and excitement of live theatre.

The HSF has acquired a reputation for quality production that reflects the leadership of Artistic Producer Scot

Denton and his team of professional directors. The company’s high quality is maintained through the dedication of all those involved in the productions.

This year, the audition call is Jan 21-22 at the Northern Lights Performing

Arts Pavilion. Anyone interested in giving it a try should visit the Highlands Summer Festival website first (www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca) and check the audition details.

A complete list of expectations and requirements is available online, as are the characters in each of the productions and the approximate age ranges for each of spots.

So, if you have ever heard the call of the stage, this could very well be the year for you to respond.

For more information, contact the Executive Producers, Davis and Betty Mills, at 705-457-1354 or Jack Brezina at kevker@sympatico.ca.



Folk Camp wants you-th

Wanakita music camp offers freebies to young musicians

By Terrance Gavan

The Haliburton Folk Camp is looking for musically-engaged young people to fill two positions at its fourth annual event. Heading up the youth initiative is Trina West.

“This is an excellent, unique opportunity for the selected young adults to experience the camp and benefit from the top instruction provided by our Artists in Residence in either guitar, choir, playing the blues, song writing, fiddle or ukulele,” says West.

Bethany Little and Lauren Moyer won the two spots last year. It was a positive experience for the young women and the organizers, so the folk camp board agreed to carry on the tradition. Last year the cut-off age was 21, but this year applications will be accepted from local musicians from the ages of 14-24.

“We’ve expanded the age [range] in the hope of appealing to college students as well as the younger students here in the county,” says West. She says there will be no American Idol type auditions for the two positions.

“Any of our local youth who want to apply are welcome,” says West. “Most of them are not going to have a resume, so we’re looking for some background and we’re looking at who shows the most interest in the camp. [We are] looking for the most enthusiastic entries.”

West says that all young people interested in the free packages should, “send along a letter

or email detailing your interest in music and your reasons for wishing to be the candidate selected for this great experience.”

West says that the project was undertaken to encourage and support young artists. “There are extremely talented musicians in the Highlands,” says West. “Some of the insight and abilities that these kids have is just amazing.”

Camp coordinator this year is Thom Lambert, and West along with some colleagues will be picking the two lucky youth who will get free tuition to all of the camp workshops. For others wishing to attend, an all-inclusive package to the burgeoning winter camp is \$405, and that includes three nights accommodation in a shared cabin at Camp Wanakita, meals, snacks, all programming, evening concerts, and access to recreation facilities and equipment, bedding and towels. The Day Package, for those living close by who do not need accommodations, is \$305.

Entries must be received by Feb 3, and may be sent to the Haliburton County Folk Society, Attention Trina West – Youth Division, 1107 Steeplechase Drive, Algonquin Highlands K0M 1J1. Entries may also be sent by email to info@haliburtonfolk.com.

For more information see www.winterfolkcamp.com and www.haliburtonfolk.com.

Read us online
www.haliburtonhighlander.ca

Around the county

Council New Year's Interviews

The Highlander is pleased to present these five year-end reviews by the County's Reeves and Warden. Former municipal journalist and current Algonquin Highlands Councilor and Deputy Reeve, Liz Danielsen, conducted and edited the interviews on our behalf. Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt submitted her own piece.

County belongs in FedNor

Haliburton County – Warden Murray Fearrey

When asked about challenges facing the county, Warden Murray Fearrey prefers to look at accomplishments, saying the Council had managed to make a number of decisions that had been hanging over the county for some time. His focus is now squarely on the opportunities to make further progress in 2012.

"We had no real difficulties this past year," he said. "We do have a lot of new councilors, and there have been some differences in opinion, but overall we've managed to work well together, which is an accomplishment in itself. There are a number of very strong individuals and that should be viewed as a positive thing for all the residents in the county."

Looming Decisions on Rail Trail and Plan

Fearrey said that the Rail Trail has taken up a lot of the Economic Development and Tourism committee's energy, and council's time, but added that it had been a subject of huge importance to a lot of residents and a variety of groups. "We have managed to implement a process that is transparent and all-inclusive, and in 2012 there will be a decision made on how it will be used and developed. The decision likely won't please everyone, but will hopefully put some long-standing discord to bed."

Fearrey also commented that getting the County's Official Plan approved and moving forward with some of the commitments it contains was a major accomplishment. He said he was particularly pleased to be proceeding with initiatives like Places to Grow, adding that housing studies have commenced and need to be completed in 2012.

"One issue that we must resolve is our proposed shoreline tree-cutting bylaw. It will be very difficult to please everyone. Some folks have the idea that it means no cutting of any vegetation in an area. We are looking at a huge geographic area and the challenge will be finding the balance and determining how to enforce the bylaw. We hope to rely on common sense so that we don't get the clear cutting and lawns running right down to the shoreline. We truly believe

that we can accomplish that and protect our lakes, one of the greatest challenges of our future.

Challenges & Opportunities

"Another challenge that we face is our collective decision to restructure the county's Economic Development & Tourism department. The Director's retirement is imminent and we need to restructure the department in a way that focuses on tourism. However, we also need to take our time and determine the best path to take. We have jumped the gun on several occasions and that hasn't worked, so we simply must



Murray Fearrey
Haliburton County

I believe it is important for our politicians to make the case and ask why we're continuing to be overlooked in this county.

find the best strategy and build the department around it."

"As to accomplishments, as a result of working with the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, the broadband project will be well on its way in 2012. The project is extremely important, even critical, to the infrastructure of our county and our future as it will provide the opportunity for so many more people to work here.

"Another challenge which we face, along with the EOWC, is having the same level of input with upper levels of government as we have enjoyed in the past, given the recent

election results. Hopefully we can work with everyone to achieve the goals of the Caucus."

County Belongs in FedNor

Fearrey also addressed the county's exclusion from FedNor, stating, "Another of our challenges, which is upsetting to me personally, is the fact that Muskoka is part of FedNor [the Federal government's regional development organization for Northern Ontario]. We are much more in need of that funding than Muskoka.

I believe it is important for our politicians to make the case and ask why we're continuing to be overlooked in this county. Our Council needs to hear and understand exactly what we've done to find ourselves not being treated equally and why we're excluded. The government should do the right thing and include us in a funding formula that we desperately need and deserve."

New EMS Building in Minden

Fearrey said that another challenge during 2011, and opportunity for 2012, will be a new building for the EMS department. "It will only be possible with government funding. We look forward to working closely with Minden Hills to determine if we can have a joint project that will house our EMS services with their Fire Department.

"I think that roads and ambulance services are always on the radar as they are the county's two largest expenses. Although we made an attempt to look at this in the past, I think we need to revisit the possibility of some county roads becoming municipal roads and vice versa. The cost is borne by two levels of government but the bottom line is there is only one taxpayer. I believe there may be some opportunities to review that and find a better solution. There could be trades that would make sense and we have to find a solution that has the greatest economic benefit to the taxpayer.

"We have a busy year ahead of us and we will have to work hard to achieve the goals we've set out."

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MNR HQ was 'biggest achievement'

Algonquin Highlands – Reeve Carol Moffatt

By Carol Moffatt

It was a good year for Algonquin Highlands.

The biggest overall achievement of the year was our work on the anticipated relocation of the MNR Headquarters to the Stanhope Airport. After years of informal discussions between MNR and Township officials, we were thrilled to hold the first formal, open meeting on the subject. Although this project is complicated and layered, we're finding our way through its various "chicken-and-egg" requirements.

We're hoping for "the big reveal" early in 2012, with enough details confirmed to show the public about the project and its funding.

A scope-change application will be made to Build Canada, and when that's approved and a contract is signed with the MNR, Council will table a discussion to rescind the runway decision. This, combined with changes to operations, a new Airport Manager and some excellent ideas for enhanced activity, all point to revitalizing our great little airport.

The biggest administrative achievement has been directing Treasury staff to aggressively pursue some \$2 million in unresolved and longstanding tax arrears. Thanks to the excellent work of staff, we've put an end to some outrageous arrears, eliminated budgeting on false receivables, and vastly improved the Township's financial position.

We've also had significant success with housekeeping issues, including policy review, reporting structures, terms

of reference for committees, Treasury advancements, and improved communication.

Another notable achievement was in Fire Services, not only with the success of our new Training Officer, but also with the implementation of the recommendations of the McCullough Report, following several resignations in 2010.



Carol Moffatt

Algonquin Highlands

The municipality is in a position to face the future with confidence.

This was an experience that affected many and was felt very deeply. The downside is that some remain hurt and angry about it; the upside is that the department is now stronger and more unified. The first-ever amalgamated Awards Dinner was held in December, where some 50 firefighters proudly wore new station wear. Award recipients were humbled and honoured, and people cheered.

Finally, it's worth noting the success of the new team at Algonquin Highlands. After almost two years of staff disruptions, new faces and changes in political and administrative leadership, the municipality is in a position to face the future with confidence. The new Council works well together and our staff is outstanding.

When it comes to challenges, our biggest (and most exciting) challenge will be the MNR relocation. Our most frustrating challenge will remain septage and the lagoon; and our most interesting (and potentially expensive) challenge will be undertaking a facilities analysis to address the Township's extraordinary, and potentially unsafe, lack of physical space. Of course challenges, like opportunities, tend to pop up unannounced, so it remains to be seen what else the year will hold for us.

Looking ahead, we'll continue to streamline internal operations; continue to work with the MNR; start our provincially-funded Municipal Cultural Plan; join Doors Open for the first time; welcome a new Airport Manager; consider the role of an Economic Development Committee; support the work of the Dorset Community Partnership; continue to reach out to the folks at Oxtongue Lake; and finalize the investment of the HCDC's \$15,000 Community Capacity grant.

As this all unfolds, I'm looking forward to working with Council, members of staff and the public to continue the good works of Algonquin Highlands.

Canadian Tire finally started construction

Minden Hills – Reeve Barb Reid

Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid recalls a very busy 2011 for her municipality. In particular, she cited Canadian Tire's arrival as one of the greatest accomplishments for the community, for both development and job opportunities.

"After many years of delays and hurdles, Canadian Tire finally started construction on September 12. It was a very memorable day for me, having all four of the Reeves who touched this project gathered for the ground-breaking ceremony."

Reid is also excited about the snowmobiling/ATV revitalization project and the new Mount Minden and Village Trail in the community. "No less than thirteen private property owners co-operated with the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association and the Township of Minden Hills in allowing the new trail on their vacant properties."

Reid added that extensive bridge and trail repairs outside the Village were funded by both the HCSA and the Haliburton ATV Association. "In addition, five destination trail signs showing the new Minden Village Trail were funded by the Township of Minden Hills, along with a commitment from

the Haliburton County Development Corporation. According to Reid, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobiling Associations magazine, Go Snowmobiling, has a feature article on the new



Barb Reid

Minden Hills

I hope to see lots of snowmobilers visit and support our Minden area businesses.

trail in the current Winter 2011 edition.

"It is our hope that this publicity will go a long way towards attracting snowmobilers back to Minden. Over the next few months, we will be working with HATVA to ensure that we

make the Minden area an exciting destination for ATVers in the summer and fall of 2012."

Priority is to keep costs and tax increases low

When asked about the challenges her Council faces in the upcoming year, Reid said, "One of the greatest challenges for our Council in 2012 will be containing costs in the municipality. We are trying to keep our 2012 tax levy increase to the rate of inflation. If we want to find the money for improvements and new initiatives, we need to find it from within the current municipal budget and from grants. In these difficult economic times, it is not realistic to ask the taxpayers for more."

As for 2012, Reid said, "I'm looking forward to the grand opening of both the Canadian Tire and Dairy Queen stores. There are also some other economic development initiatives that I hope come to fruition this year.

"I hope to see lots of snowmobilers visit and support our Minden area businesses, but most of all, I hope for peace and prosperity for all."

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Around the county

Unbridled enthusiasm Highlands East – Reeve Dave Burton

Highlands East's Reeve Dave Burton is proud of what his council accomplished in 2011.

"We haven't had a lot of challenges for our municipality. In fact, our biggest challenge is also our biggest achievement. The previous Council started working on a strategic plan, but it is this Council that has been closely reviewing the document, which remains open-ended. The new Council feels that we should embrace the plan as it stands and move forward with it.

"One of the items that came out of discussions involving the strategic plan was establishing a committee structure and it has been quite a job getting the committees off the ground. We have a wonderful cross section of local and seasonal residents involved and the main problem has been harnessing their enthusiasm."

Burton proudly reported that new committees have been established for economic development, trails, housing and grants, as well as environment and green energy. Finally, he said there was a culture & recreation committee which in part is looking at the interests of all of the community's local artists and artisans. The committee will also review all of the buildings owned by the municipality and consider their future.

Referring to the housing & grants committee, Burton said, "This new committee has been tasked with accurately assessing our needs for housing and gaining a focus to ensure that we meet all of our housing needs.

"Establishing these new committees has been as much of an accomplishment as they've been a challenge for us. We're trying to look at our threats and opportunities and determine exactly what is needed for the municipality.

"The new council is very busy and I honestly feel that each of them is earning what little pay they receive. They have embraced the new committee structure; they're working hard and doing a wonderful job with them."

Wins with pharmacy and mineral tourism

Burton was particularly pleased with the sale of the municipality's medical centre to Kass Eshkour, the owner of the Kinmount Pharmacy. Burton said that during a public meeting, with as many as 75 people in attendance, the idea was fully supported. "It was an excellent process with full public involvement. It will be very exciting going forward, but to make the facility work we need doctors.

"Staking claims of geological interest within the



Dave Burton

Highlands East

It is an excellent group to work with and there are exciting things ahead for our municipality.

municipality has also been an exciting step for us, and the help of Haliburtonian Michael Bainbridge has been key. This process started as a county initiative through the economic development & tourism committee, but I firmly believe that now that the focus for economic development is at the lower tier level, these claims and our opportunities in mineral tourism will be a terrific boost for Highlands East."

When considering challenges that the Highlands East Council had experienced throughout the year, Burton chuckled and said, "Holding the Council back and harnessing their enthusiasm as well has really been something. It is an excellent group to work with and there are exciting things ahead for our municipality."

Fire department pulling together

As to what's anticipated in 2012 Burton said, "Although challenges always pop up, particularly when moving forward in a new direction. I don't see a lot of problems looming on the horizon."

Burton acknowledged that, while there have been some issues within the fire department in the past, the volunteers have really been pulling together over the past year. He said, "We're down in the number of volunteers a bit, but our fire fighters are working very well together. We're safe in our numbers, but we hope to continue with recruitment efforts this year. Overall we're in excellent shape; we have good equipment, training continues and we have a dedicated group of volunteers."

A positive outlook for 2012

When looking at the municipality as a whole, Burton said, "We have excellent people. They are all positioned in the right place to get the job done and it's a pleasure to work with all of the staff and members of Council. The budgeting process, while always a challenge, is a process that we look forward to. It's an exciting time for me and strangely enough, although the budget is the biggest challenge we face, it is something that I enjoy. We hope to strive to ensure that there is the least amount of increase possible, while maintaining the same level of service that our residents are deserving of."

Burton, who continues to chair the Eastern Ontario Regional Network on behalf of the County, said that he is also very pleased to see the broadband project move forward. "We have just completed our first zone months early and under budget. We have the right partners in place to make the project work and bring broadband to many more residents in the county."

Fearrey pleased with housing progress

Dysart et al – Reeve Murray Fearrey

When asked about challenges faced by Dysart in 2011, Reeve Murray Fearrey had a lot of positive things to say.

"With the progress we've made on our streetscape project, and the fact that we made some very credible gains in the housing field with the condominiums going ahead and the seniors social housing project, I'm feeling very positive. Both of these projects went relatively smoothly, and despite the fact that there are often funding difficulties, there were no insurmountable hurdles. The condo proposal went through in amazing time."

Fearrey also assured *The Highlander* that the principals of the Watercolours development are still working to get their site plan approval. "Although there has been nothing put forward yet that we have approved, we are continuing to work with the consultants to make their site plan meet the requirements. We still look forward to seeing the project go ahead. The process has gone a long way and they have a huge investment in the community and are determined to make it happen, one way or another."

New council working well

Fearrey confirmed that his new council has gelled and is working well. "I'm pleased with the people we have in place. They are a dedicated group and they are certainly participating. That's what it's all about.

"Of course there are always difficulties and we've had challenges. Although some people don't understand, we always try to run a very tight budget to the greatest extent

possible. The real challenges are when something unforeseen happens. We've had staff turnover in both our CAO and treasurer's positions. When you lose key people you can't help but experience a bit of interruption, particularly with the budget, but I believe that our bottom line will be OK. We're very pleased with the recruitments that we have and are



Murray Fearrey

Haliburton County

It's easy to spend money and a lot harder to become more efficient, but this is an excellent time to understand the realities; show a bit of restraint.

excited about going forward with them this year.

"Overall the year went very well. Names and faces change at the council table. When you have new councilors, people who have had concerns or didn't get their way in the past try the new council on, which can be a continuing problem. However, this council does its homework and looks carefully at the issues when making decisions."

Difficult times call for prudence

Referring to the Prime Minister's address and comments about 2012 being a difficult year, Fearrey said, "Obviously given the economic reality in both Dysart and Haliburton County as a whole, we aren't in a position to suggest there should be huge tax increases. We can't place those who are less fortunate in an even more difficult position. We must hold the line as much as we can. We can't cut necessary services but we can be more prudent about our spending and prioritize things, giving people the break they need during these difficult times.

When asked what projects might be coming up, Fearrey said, "I think we'll see another housing project in 2012; in fact, I hope to see it come forward in January. We will also see the streetscape project advanced and be very close to completion, although it won't likely be finished until the spring of 2013. I'm very positive about the appearance of the Village, but everyone needs to be realistic about rental spaces. I hope to see some new rates and spaces fill up in the spring of 2012.

"It's easy to spend money and a lot harder to become more efficient, but this is an excellent time to understand the realities; show a bit of restraint. That's the way we are with our households and it's the way that municipalities should run. Granted, there are things we have no control over, like the cost of policing or the cost of MPAC. These are services we need and must pay for.

"It's finding the balance will be our biggest challenge."

Senior highlanders

Aging Well Exercise — before getting out of bed

Dear Penny,

Getting out of bed in the morning is getting harder and harder. It's not that I don't want to get up. I do. But it takes a good half hour for my joints to loosen up enough so I can move. My back hurts. My ankles are stiff. My shoulders and knees seem to creak. Everything feels stiff and sore. And then I'm fine. How can I speed up the loosening up?

Stiff and Tired

Dear Stiff and Tired,

Early morning stiffness is a common complaint as our bodies age. For some of us, it seems to take forever until joints are sufficiently lubricated for easy, pain-free movement.

Many people find that exercising before getting out of bed helps immensely. I'm not talking about strenuous exercise. I mean the sort of simple joint exercises easily accomplished in the first few minutes after waking.

I've listed some you can try, below.

While it's a good idea to do all of them in sequence, it isn't an absolute requirement. If you wish, you may choose the ones you like best and ignore the others. Or do them in

whatever order you prefer. But do try them all so you'll know what works best for your body.

All of the exercises I'm suggesting here begin with you lying comfortably on your back before you get out of bed. There is nothing special you need to do to get into position or to prepare your "exercise space".

All of these exercises are excellent for "oiling" those joints before you get out of bed and they have an added bonus as well: not only will they help loosen you up, they'll also do good things for your circulation.

Ankle Circling

Point your toes to the ceiling. Point your toes to the floor. Circle your feet 20 times in one direction, then 20 times in the other.

Knee Flexibility

Beginning with your right leg, draw your heel towards your buttocks without lifting it from the bed and then return it to the resting position. Alternate legs. Twenty repeats will loosen your knees.

Quad Tightening

Keeping your legs flat on the bed and alternating legs, tighten the big muscles in front of your thigh — that is, your quadriceps. Hold for a count of five. Release. Rest for a count

of five. Repeat 10 times for each leg.

Angels in the Snow

Remember how? Do it — legs only — in bed. Ten times.

Pelvic Tilting

Place one hand behind you, under the small of your back. Press down towards that hand, tightening your stomach muscles as you do. Hold for a count of five. Relax for five. Repeat ten times.

Shoulder Circling

Put your hands on your shoulders and circle 20 times in one direction, then 20 times in the other.

Angel Arms

It's time for the top of you to do what the bottom did a few minutes ago. Ten times.

Head Rolling

Keeping your head on the pillow, roll to the right and then to the left. Twenty repeats should do it.

Readers, if you have any other questions — about your mobility, your comfort, or just about getting through your day more safely and easily — I want to hear them. For real-life answers you can use, write to Penny at penny@haliburtonhighlander.ca.



By Penny Brown

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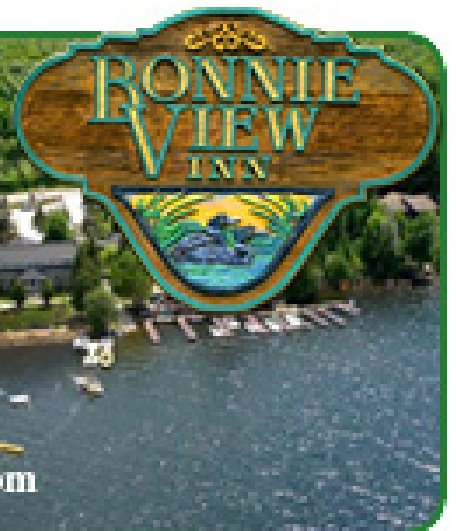
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Dental outreach beats targets

By Mark Arike

It's been one year since the seeds were planted for the Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County (VDO). Only weeks after the outreach's founding members called their first planning meeting on Dec 17, 2010, dozens of partnerships were formed and a need in the community was recognized.

On May 19 of last year, the doors to the VDO – located at 739 Mountain Street in Haliburton – opened. As of this week, volunteer dentists and their teams had seen 132 patients in 470 appointments – and provided a staggering \$154,102 in free dental treatments. It originally was the group's goal to provide \$150,000 worth of work after its first year of operations; that goal was reached in just seven months.

Fundraising has been important for starting the clinic and sustaining its activities. Concerts, silent auctions and a golf tournament held last summer at Blairhampton Golf Club (an event that raised over \$22,000) have all contributed to the cause. This past weekend on New Years Eve, the Ya Babys performed at a fundraiser-cum-silent-auction and raised another solid \$2,341.

"This clinic exists because of the community effort it took to build and support it," said Lisa Kerr, one of the clinic's founders. "Thousands of hours of people's donated time to build, run and fund the clinic have led to the success."

Kerr and her husband Bill, a dentist, came up with the idea for the VDO along with local hygienist Lisa Stoughton. Their vision was largely inspired by mission trips they made to Honduras to provide free dental work to residents in need.

Once their vision was put to paper, the organizing committee created a simple and straightforward mandate: "To provide free urgent dental care for low income residents of Haliburton County."

Since the clinic opened, Kerr says that the demand in the county has been overwhelming.

"The need for the services is at least double what we are able to provide at our current rate of being open 11-13 days per month. Our waiting list continues to grow."

To help them balance the high demand for services, an assistant was recently brought on board.

"It was necessary to hire an assistant to manage the demand because we had more dentists willing to volunteer than dental assistants available to work with them," said Kerr, adding that more volunteer dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants are still needed.

The rest of the health care professionals and support team all volunteer their time to provide the much-needed services, which include root canals, fillings and more. "The patients are extremely grateful for the care they are receiving," said Kerr.

Those interested in learning more about the dental outreach clinic can go to www.dental-outreach.com or call 705-457-3111. Residents in need of urgent work are encouraged to call SIRCH at 705-457-1742 ext. 44 to start the application process.

There is also a golf tournament in the works to benefit the VDO, scheduled for August 16. Organizers are hoping to raise in excess of \$30,000 to ensure the work of the clinic continues. Donations to the clinic can be made on SIRCH's website at www.sirch.on.ca.



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Highlander heritage

Settlers, First Nations and Beaver Wars

By Will Jones

The Land Between, a three-part documentary series, is to be released early in the New Year and it will be aired throughout Ontario and Canada by TVO in March 2012.

The series, which has a potential TV audience of two million viewers, was the brainchild of the Land Between's Leora Berman, who enlisted the financial help of a number of partners, including sponsorship by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. It aims to explore our evolving relationship with the biologically and geologically diverse region between the rugged Canadian Shield and the flat arable St. Lawrence Lowlands of Ontario; the region known as the Land Between.

Supported by a variety of sponsors, the Land Between is a national charity that collects and shares research on the ecological, cultural and economic health and vitality of the region. It is a volunteer-based organization, which includes a wide variety of members within its council and circle – from First Nations representatives to cultural specialists, non-profit leaders, local councilors and land owners – and carries out applied research with six universities across the province, as well as Sir Sandford Fleming College.

Berman, Managing Director of Land Between, has been instrumental in the making of the series, both in attracting partners to the project and as its executive producer. She says: "The documentary has taken some time to come to fruition but the results are wonderful. The directors [Zachary Melnick and Yvonne Drebert] have created something that truly captures the magic of the region and tells its whole story: from geological creation, to human inhabitation; the cultural and commercial currency, biodiversity and ecological sensitivity, as well as the efforts being made to preserve the region now."

Working with Melnick and Drebert, owners of Lock3Media and directors in the Ontario Visual Heritage Project, Berman's aim was to bring the people, history, culture and ecology of this diverse area of land, which stretches across south-central Ontario from Georgian Bay to Kingston, to life.

Together, the trio have managed to do that in three half-hour episodes. Zelnick, Drebert and Berman enthuse about the series and the many and varied interviews conducted for it — over 70 in all — which include local names such as Tom Ballantine, director of the Haliburton Highlands Museum and renowned specialists such as TV host and geologist, professor Nick Eyles.

The three episodes cover a wealth of topics, each of which is connected in some way to the transitional landscape that many of us live upon. Episode one starts with an introduction to the Land Between concept — how it's geology and ecology has come to be understood, from centuries past to the modern day — before transporting us back in time to explore the First Nations' relationships with the region. It visits the Land Between's four Great Gathering Places — Mazinaw (Bon Echo), Kinomagewapkong (Peterborough Petroglyphs), Mnjikaning (Orillia) and Beausoleil Island — and examines the symbiotic



Top: A re-enactment of European Champlain with an Anishinabe Guide. Above left: Professor Nick Eyles, University of Toronto, discusses the Land Between's rich geological make-up. Above right: Kris Nahrgang, Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nation, demonstrates his skills.

relationship that developed here between the agricultural Wendat of the south, and the hunter-gatherer Anishinabe of the north. Finally, the episode looks at Europeans' first impressions of the region; the chaos that the Beaver Wars brought, and the resulting peace treaties that ensured that the land's resources would be shared.

Episode two starts with the story of Sam Moore, a trader from the US, who in the early 1800s, started a trading post in partnership with a Mississauga man he named 'Too Tall'. It discusses the early surveyors' thoughts as they tried to make sense of, and find a use for, a land they often simply called a 'barren, rocky country'. The immense impact of the lumber industry and its barons is explored, while the development of the Colonization Roads Scheme, which government officials hoped would quickly populate the region, is shown in reality to be paved with farmers' broken dreams.

The final episode starts by exploring the individual modern-day relationships of six people with the Land between — an artist, an archaeologist, a First Nations elder, a cottager, a canoeist, and a Buddhist monk — before going back in time to discover how these relationships, and feelings, developed: from the first

Victorian travelers and artists, to early tourism and First Nations guiding and the implementation of the parks system. It then investigates the legacy of individuals who took it upon themselves to steward their favourite pieces of the region and finally looks at how, today, volunteer groups, governments and corporations are struggling to find a balance between economic development and environmental sustainability for the Land Between.

Berman plans to take the documentary to the widest possible audience. As well as airing on TV and being made available on DVD, it will be shown at the high school in Haliburton free-of-charge, along with similar events to be held throughout the region. And, if that doesn't satiate your appetite for information about our magnificent surroundings, in keeping with today's yearning for all things mobile, a cell phone app is being developed that will show footage from the documentary (plus hundreds of additional hours of filming), corresponding to the GPS coordinates of where in the region a user is located.

"It will unlock footage of where you are standing!" beams Berman. "I'm no iPhone geek by any means but that is really cool."

The documentary, part of the Ontario Visual Heritage Project, is sponsored by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, with additional support from Parks Canada, Ontario Parks and the Ontario Highlands Tourism Association.

Leora Berman

The Land Between

"The documentary truly captures the magic of the region and tells its whole story."

Sports news

Hockey teams stood out in 2011



Julia Fedeski (left) is the 3-0 Red Hawks leading scorer. Fedeski, along with defensive partner, Jessica Duchene, anchor a very talented blue line corps this year in the Hawks second year in the Kawartha Girls' Hockey League. Top, Brett Yake leads the Red Hawk men in scoring this season. Yake has 11 goals and 8 assists for the 6-0 Hawks. **Photos by Terrance Gavan.**

Highlands Summer Festival

AUDITION CALL

Saturday and Sunday, January 21 & 22
The Highlands Summer Festival invites actors between the ages of 11 to 65, of both genders, to audition for the 2012 summer theatre season.

This year's productions include:

- Colours in the Storm
- Within Reach
- Arsenic and Old Lace
- Steel Magnolias

Characters outlines, skills required (some productions include singing and dancing), audition, rehearsal and production scheduling can be found at www.highlandsummerfestival.on.ca

For more information contact Executive Producers David Mills and Betty Mills at 705-457-1354.

By Terrance Gavan

A little secret: the bane of reporters everywhere is 'the year-in-review,' which we'll kindly call a pedantic, peripatetic paddle through pummeled waters.

Reporters and editors hate doing year-in-review stories.

So, the good news is we don't have a year in sports to review at *The Highlander*. We have twelve issues on our plate. We have thus dodged the incremental bullet. And that's beautiful, because most of our sports coverage is consumed by the high school beat, and we do not like to single out any one team.

We're quite proprietary about the teams here at Haliburton High. For years we lived by the golden rule of the press corps in far flung places like Winnipeg and Ottawa: "No cheering in the press box."

It's a self-serving hypocrisy, because every sports journalist we know brings a determined and unquenchable bias to each and every game he or she covers. We coddle no such pretense here at *The Highlander*. You will hear submerged pleadings and uttered oaths if you stand too close to *The Highlander* photographer at a Red Hawks game.

We would like to suggest that the epithets are always g-rated, but we cannot attest to that absolutely.

So let us not muddy waters here; it's hockey, basketball, volleyball, snowboarding and wrestling season at Haliburton High School. Good luck to all in the New Year.

We are gobsmacked by their dedication. Because Haliburton

High is a small school, the fact that it can maintain such a torrid pace in inter-school athletics is quite humbling indeed. Many of the student athletes are on multiple teams. All come to the field and arena with their hearts worn on red sleeves.

Right now, we have hockey as our most viable touchstone to our short and sweet flow of year-end reverie. But we should remember of course that field hockey is included in the equation. Both senior and junior varsity girls' field hockey squads captured the Kawartha championship — the JVs did it for the fourth straight year and the seniors finished with two straight, undefeated Kawartha seasons.

The senior varsity captured the COSSA crown as well, and fared superbly against a plethora of competition in the All-Ontario tourney. Coaches Caley Sisson, Steve Smith and all of the talented girls who made those feats possible get credit for one of our year-end highlights.

And of course we have those other hockey players, who must qualify for runner-up status. Both the boys and girls hockey teams are currently undefeated in Kawartha League play. The boys are 6-0, and the girls are 3-0. The boys won a prestigious 32-team hockey tourney in Whitby recently, and the Hawk girls returned from a Lake Placid tourney with a bronze medal.

Coaches Dan Marsden, Vince Duchene, Bruce Griffith and Ron Yake should be commended for their work on both teams. But in the end it's the athletes who push the dreams.

So kudos to all Hal High athletes who competed in 2011. No cheering in the press box? Pshaw!

Tell us about your sports events –
email gav@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Sports opinion

PardontheEruption



Past bold predictions and we told you so Vancouver Canucks Cody Hodgson 'centres' attention

By Terrance Gavan

Faith, grace and reclamation. Not a bad threesome to start a new year.

No one likes an I-told-you-so, but we have never been beholden to political correctness. Thus, we'll take some time this 2012 to channel our inner brag and detail the graceful reclamation of one Cody Hodgson, a Haliburton cottager who proved that hard work, talent and perseverance will out.

We have been writing about Hodgson — because of his connection to Haliburton — for many years now. And, we'd like say that we have displayed the same class and forthrightness as young Cody, but alas we have not. We have single-handedly taken on the Vancouver front office for mismanaging the young man since his tenth overall pick by the Canucks, back in 2008.

We have taken Coach Alain Vigneault's name in vain, and we have second-guessed Vancouver's general manager, Mike Gillis. We have written so many screeds decrying Vancouver's abysmal treatment of Hodgson — a general managerial malaise that for years we deemed shoddy and detrimental to Hodgson's development — that our calls, we imagined, were being screened by the mucky-muck media managers in Vancouver.

Hey, it's not paranoia. Sometimes that helicopter really is filled with CIA black-ops personnel.

Thankfully we had access to better relations with a friend, Manitoba Moose media guy, Scott Brown, in Winnipeg, when Hodgson was putting together a resume with the Canucks' AHL affiliate, Manitoba Moose.

This year, Hodgson has moved from "that guy with so

much promise" to "that guy" with so much promise. We hope we don't have to explain the redundancy. The former is by way of a pejorative insult, and the latter, with the appropriate emphasis on "that guy", is related as a measure of respect.

Cody Hodgson has grown up being "that guy", a young man who, it seemed, from the time he first laced on a pair of Tacks at the Dysart Arena in Haliburton, seemed destined to be a leader.

When he played with another Haliburton legend, Matt Duchene, on the Brampton Battalion, Hodgson emerged as leader. When he and Duchene led Canada's Under 18 team to gold at the Ivan Hlinka tourney, Hodgson wore the "C".

Later, Hodgson was the leading scorer — on a team that boasted John Tavares — and helped lead the Canadian juniors to gold in 2009.

During his major junior career with the Battalion, Hodgson received First Team All-Star honours, won the Red Tilson Trophy, William Hanley Trophy and CHL Player of the Year Award in 2009. When he was drafted in the first round in 2008, he was touted as the future of the Canucks franchise. But then he injured his back and all that promise was suddenly, and cruelly, placed on the back burner of the old hot stove.

During his first two training camps, Hodgson was regularly taken to task for his "numerous deficiencies." More scalding than all that was a growing perception from fans that Hodgson was a "prima donna." Nothing, and we mean nothing, is more detrimental to a young hockey player's future than the diva tag. And there was a growing suspicion from people who knew Cody Hodgson that both Gillis and Vigneault were allowing their "future leader" to languish under that harsh spotlight, devoid of front office rebuttal.

Hodgson's back was used by Internet nuts to confirm his fragility — that was put to rest when Gillis apologized to

Hodgson for mistreatment of the back injury. Then, in a wink, so-called gurus were on another bandwagon. To wit: "Cody Hodgson is slow."

That mangled mantra and pile of batcrap crazy analysis stays with him to this day. It's a synopsis uttered most often by overstuffed Lazy-Boy loungers and TV-talking-heads who couldn't skate from one blue line to another without the aid of an oxygen tank and a respirator.

We decried the label then and we stick by it today. Hodgson is not the speediest thing on Reeboks, but he's certainly not slow. You don't get past the speed guns and training camps and you don't get selected 10th in the first round if you're slow.

Your agent took to his comfy chair and wrote repeatedly that Cody Hodgson needed one thing to shove the phonies and doubters on their collective backsides. We huffed and we puffed and we repeated one mantra. We stayed the course, not because of any personal investiture in Hodgson, but because we realized that Hodgson's talents did not suddenly dematerialize in a Star Trek transporter.

We said that all Cody Hodgson needed was a chance, the opportunity to play regularly.

Cody Hodgson got that chance this year. He's still in the Rookie of The Year conversation. More important, Cody Hodgson is contributing. "On a night where the Sedins couldn't quite connect and the second line couldn't get out of second gear, the Canucks' third line gave them a chance to win," wrote Vancouver Province beat writer, Jim Jamieson on Jan 2. "Rookie centre Cody Hodgson led the way in the scoring department, with an assist on Jannik Hansen's first-period pinball goal... and a key power-play goal that tied the game midway through the third period."

Faith and grace equals? Reclamation of course.

Happy New Year, and you're welcome. We told you so!

Duchene out of Avs lineup for a month

By Terrance Gavan

Haliburton's Matt Duchene, star forward with the NHL's Colorado Avalanche, was forced to leave a game against the Phoenix Coyotes last week.

And, after an MRI, the news is not at all promising for the leading goal-getter on the Colorado Avalanche.

Denver Post beat writer Adrian Dater says that Duchene will be "out of the lineup a minimum of four weeks because of a left knee injury."

Matt suffered the injury in the first period. "The Avs [management] cautioned the four weeks is a minimum, and could be longer," says Dater. Further tests are likely to be required once some swelling goes down to the knee, but for now the Avs are cautiously optimistic it won't be a longer-term, season-ending injury."

Duchene had missed only three games in his NHL career.

Associated Press said that the injury occurred "when he tried to deliver a check and his right skate got caught on the ice. He skated to the bench and went immediately to the locker room."

A teammate said his skate blade may have been caught in a rut on the ice surface.

Duchene, 20, is in his third season with the Avalanche; he leads the Avs with 12 goals in 39 games. Third overall pick in the 2009 draft, Duchene was a first-time All-Star in 2011. This was his 200th career NHL game. Matt's sister Jessica is a standout defenseman on the Haliburton High School Red Hawks girls varsity team. Dad Vince is an assistant coach of the team and Matt's mom Chris is the guidance teacher at Hal High and the manager of the Hockey Hawks.

Matt has 63 goals and 83 assists in his NHL career.

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Around the county

Drunk-driving charges skyrocket

Twice as many caught in 2011 holiday RIDE campaign

By Terrance Gavan

Occasionally, some sobering information crosses the news desk here at *The Highlander*.

The latest RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) release from the OPP says that vehicular homicide is still the leading cause of criminal death in Canada. That's a pretty staggering stat. And perhaps a sobering reminder that even with the great strides taken against driving drunk over the past decade, we are still left with many drivers who feel that discretion is not the better part of valour.

The numbers are in for the OPP's 2011-2012 Festive RIDE campaign and the tally sheet cites a low water mark for driver responsibility. According to the OPP release, from Nov 25 to Jan 1, "officers removed a total of 1203 impaired drivers off our roads and highways throughout

the six Ontario regions that are policed by the OPP. Of this total, 652 were charged with impaired driving and the other 551 were issued immediate warn-range suspensions for [testing] between .05 and .08. During the 2010-2011 RIDE campaign, 308 drivers were charged with impaired driving and 613 were issued Warn Range suspensions.

The increase left OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis gasping for words. "On one hand, I am extremely proud of the hard work on the part of our officers who made this campaign highly effective in removing these dangerous drivers from our roads over the holidays," said Lewis. "On the other hand, I am disappointed that these drivers would risk their lives and the lives of others."

In 2011, 47 people died in alcohol-related crashes on OPP-patrolled roads. That's a mind-boggling number of deaths caused by a blatant disregard for the rights of others. These deaths were all preventable. If the people involved showed due diligence and a modicum of common sense, those 47 people would be with their families today. It's why Commissioner Lewis is disappointed and why so many mothers are MADD.

According to Chief Superintendent Don Bell, Commander of the OPP Highway Safety Division, drivers shouldn't be complacent just because the holiday season is over.

"The results of our Festive RIDE campaign and the dangers associated with driving impaired have been widely-publicized in the news, yet more than 1,200 drivers still chose to ignore our strong messaging and warnings about impaired driving," said Bell. "For those who feel relieved that our campaign is over, be warned that our regular RIDE initiatives will continue to be conducted throughout the province year-round, so there is no safe haven for impaired drivers anywhere or anytime on Ontario roads."

"The message that the OPP are conveying is and has always been very simple," says Constable Peter Leon, spokesman for the OPP's Central Division. "If you drink, then don't drive — make these six words part of your plans. As a driver, it is your responsibility not to put others in harm's way. "The next time you pass through a RIDE spot-check, remember that the police officers you encounter are doing a very important part of their job."

Peewee As win Peterborough Christmas Classic

Submitted by Karena Crofts

Dr Ed Smolen Family Dentistry's Peewee As took part in the three day Peterborough Christmas Classic Tournament December 28, 29 and 30.

In the first game versus Prince Edward County Kings, the Storm pulled out a win of 4-3; they won again in the second of the day, against the Newcastle Stars 2-1.

On Thursday in the first game versus the Manvers Mustangs, the Storm won 4-0, giving goalie Parker Smolen the first of three shutouts in the tournament. The following game the Storm beat the Coldwater Wildcats 8-0. This fourth win move the boys into the semi-finals in top place, so parents and players either had to stay in Peterborough another night or do the drive again for a third day.

The Storm Peewee As made the extra day worth their while, by winning the semi-final against Brighton 4-0 before moving on to the championship game with South Grenville.

South Grenville scored first, but the Storm tied it up and then went ahead 2-1. Greg Crofts got a goal before the end of the second period to make it 3-1. The third period saw South Grenville score to make 2-3, but nearing the end of the third, Jake Bishop scored to win 4-2, making the boys Champions of the tournament. What a way to end the year!

Congratulations! We apologize for not being able to acknowledge everyone's goals and assists, but this was obviously a great team effort. And congratulations to Matt Wilbee, who got his 50th goal of the year during the tournament.



Carl Dixon jams at Sir Sam's with Ken Dyck.

Ski crowds roar back

By Terrance Gavan

What a difference a day makes. Just 24 hours after some less-than-rousing opening days, Sir Sam's Ski and Bike Resort got some snow and added a ton of their own — thanks to a Siberian High. By Tuesday afternoon (Dec 27) the resort was back.

And how. Dave Webb, Sir Sam's ski school director, said that all of his instructors were placed on standby status and every single nook and cranny of the lesson-booking sheet was explored.

Resort manager Chris Bishop said he was glad to see the snow but was happier yet to see a couple of evenings dip to the -25 to -30 levels.

The snowmaking crew took full advantage of that lovely arctic high and poured a base onto the far side of the resort. The Far Side, which was closed early last week, opened up on Thursday and by that time many, many skiers from all over Ontario had already figured out that skiing conditions were excellent.

Sir Sam's snow makers have of course not seen much of a break over the last two weeks

and they likely will be pushed to their limit in the upcoming days and into next week.

But the best news for all local businesses in the Highlands is that the crowds are back and it appears that the best kept secret — for years the trademark slogan of Sir Sam's — is once again out of the bag.

Crowds roared to the hill on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and they continued to pack the parking lot right through the New Year's weekend.

And what would skiing be without the après ski? Apropos of that, the entertainment committee at Sir Sam's splurged on a wonderful afternoon of entertainment last Friday. Carl Dixon appeared in the lodge along with ski bum and drummer, Ken Dyck.

Dyck doffed his drum kit in favour of a room-friendly conga drum. The two took requests and soothed the jangled nerves of ritalin-deprived parents and kids for three hours of requests, songs and bon mots. Photos are available at www.haliburtonhighlander.ca.

Conditions are excellent and should remain so throughout the week.

NOTICE



AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A VISIONING SESSION FOR THE DYSART MUNICIPAL CULTURAL PLAN

The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Dysart et al invites interested persons to participate in a visioning session for the Dysart Municipal Cultural Plan. This is an economic development plan, which is focused on arts, culture and heritage. The approved plan will be implemented through the actions of the Municipality and supported and advanced by the actions of our community partners and stakeholders.

Date: Thursday, January 19th, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: The Great Hall, Fleming College
1297 College Drive
Haliburton, Ontario

To participate in this session, please pre-register with the Municipality prior to Friday January 13th, 2012, by calling 705-457-1740.

For further information, please contact Patricia Martin, Director of Planning and Development, during regular office hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday).

Highlander events

January 2012



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Jan 5 – Feb 25, Thursdays through Saturdays

- Evidence – Photography Exhibit featuring local photographer Darren Lum and Toronto based photographer Ryan Szulc exploring the role photography plays in today's society, opening reception Saturday, January 14 at 1 pm, Minden Hills Cultural Centre, (705) 288-2808, www.mindenculturalcentre.com

Friday – Jan 6

- Cribbage, Community Care, Haliburton, 1pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida (705) 457-2941
- NFL Football, Big Screen TV, Minden Legion Branch 636, 12:30 pm, John Sloan, (705) 288-1397, jcsloan@gmail.com
- Fish & Chips dinner at the Minden Legion Branch 636, 5pm to 7pm, John Sloan, (705) 288-1397, jcsloan@gmail.com
- Play Pool! Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 1:30 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Ham & Scaloped Dinner, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 5 pm to 7 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Jam Session, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- SNOWY DAY STORYTIME FOR SMALL TOTS, Haliburton County Public Library, Minden Branch, 10 am to 10:45 am for children ages five years and under with a caregiver, snuggle in for wonderful winter stories, songs and crafts
- SNOWY DAYS AND CRAFTY WAYS, Haliburton County Public Library, Minden Branch, 11 am to 12 noon, explore winter folk tales and create cool winter crafts, for children ages six to nine years, an adult must remain on site to supervise all children under nine years of age

Saturday – Jan 7

- Women over Breakfast: Haliburton Women in Business, Kosy Komer, Haliburton, 9 am to 11 am, Angela Clarke, 705-754-9519, wob@haliburtonwomeninbusiness.ca
- Open Mike Nite, Dominion Hotel, Minden, 8pm, (705) 288-5035, shawn@light.on.ca
- Karaoke, Minden Legion Branch 636, 7:30pm, John Sloan, (705) 288-1397, jcsloan@gmail.com
- Meat Draw, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 2 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Jam Session, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com

Sunday – Jan 8

- NFL Football, Big Screen TV, Minden Legion Branch 636, 12:30 pm, John Sloan, (705) 288-1397, jcsloan@gmail.com
- Ladies Auxiliary Breakfast, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 9 am to 12 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com

- Jam Session, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com

Monday – 9

- Cribbage Night, Minden Legion Branch, 7:30 pm
- Bid Euchre, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Jam Session, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Cloggers, Lloyd Watson Centre, Wilberforce, 7 pm, \$1, all ages welcome
- Celebrate Recovery, Lakeside Baptist Church, 7pm to 10pm, admin@lakesidebaptist.ca
- Contract Bridge, Community Care, Haliburton, 1pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida (705) 457-2941
- Haliburton County Table Tennis Club meets every Monday, 6 pm to 9 pm, St. George's Church, 617 Mountain Street, Haliburton. Come out for great fun, even better exercise and meet terrific people! Just bring your gym shoes – we provide everything else including Robo-Pong THE ROBOT! Mary or Jeff Martin, (705) 457-2260

Tuesday – 10

- Euchre Night, West Guilford Recreation Centre, 7pm to 10pm, (705) 754-1457, carolstamp@sympatico.ca
- Pool League, Dominion Hotel, Minden, open to all, (705) 288-5035
- General Meeting, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Jam Session, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com

Wednesday – 11

- Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild meeting, 1 pm, Stanhope Community Centre, featuring a trunk show by Judith Cole, to make placemats or wonky coasters come prepared at 10 am, Pat Stiver, (705) 489-3751
- Parent/Tot Kindergym at 10 am, Baby Ballet at 10:45 am, every Wednesday, Haliburton Dance Arts, Maple Avenue, Haliburton, classes \$10 each, (705) 754-0007, www.haliburtondancearts.com
- Art & Tea, Rails End Gallery, for adults who like to talk about art and drink tea
- Community Drumming/Rhythm Circle, Rails End Gallery, 7:30 pm to 9 pm
- Story Circle, Gooderham Public Library, Pine Street, Gooderham, 11:30 am, (705) 457-2241 or (705) 447-3163
- Darts, Haliburton Legion Branch 129, 7:30 pm
- Darts, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7:30 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Jam Session, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Haliburton County Table Tennis Club meets every Wednesday, 1 pm to 3 pm, Minden Community Centre,

- 55 Parkside, Minden. Come out for great fun, even better exercise and meet terrific people! Just bring your gym shoes – we provide everything else including Robo-Pong THE ROBOT! Mary or Jeff Martin, (705) 457-2260
- FREE Public Skating – Dysart Arena, Haliburton, 12 noon to 1:30 pm, Ray (705) 457-2083, rmiscio@dysartateta.ca

Thursday – 12

- Euchre Nights, Minden Legion Branch 636, 7:30 pm
- Bid Euchre, Community Care, Haliburton, 1pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida (705) 457-2941
- Bid Euchre, Minden Community Centre, 1 pm to 4 pm, Bev, (705) 288-3085

Friday – 13

- Cribbage, Community Care, Haliburton, 1pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida (705) 457-2941
- NFL Football, Big Screen TV, Minden Legion Branch 636, 12:30 pm, John Sloan, (705) 288-1397, jcsloan@gmail.com
- Fish & Chips dinner at the Minden Legion Branch 636, 5pm to 7pm, John Sloan, (705) 288-1397, jcsloan@gmail.com
- Play Pool! Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 1:30 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Jam Session, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7 pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com

Saturday – 14

- Open Mike Nite, Dominion Hotel, Minden, 8pm, (705) 288-5035, shawn@light.on.ca
- Karaoke, Minden Legion Branch 636, 7:30pm, John Sloan, (705) 288-1397, jcsloan@gmail.com

Sunday – 15

- NFL Football, Big Screen TV, Minden Legion Branch 636, 12:30 pm, John Sloan, (705) 288-1397, jcsloan@gmail.com
- Circus Terrifico – Razzamataz Kids Shows, Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, 2pm, www.razzamataz.ca, www.motuso.com
- FREE Public Skating – Dysart Arena, Haliburton, 12 noon to 1:30 pm, Ray (705) 457-2083, rmiscio@dysartateta.ca

Monday – 16

- Cribbage Night, Minden Legion Branch, 7:30 pm
- Cloggers, Lloyd Watson Centre, Wilberforce, 7 pm, \$1, all ages welcome
- Celebrate Recovery, Lakeside Baptist Church, 7pm to 10pm, admin@lakesidebaptist.ca
- Contract Bridge, Community Care, Haliburton, 1pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida (705) 457-2941

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Email details to loise@haliburtonhighlander.ca by Mondays at noon.



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Classifieds page

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DID SANTA FORGET? We all know he is getting a little older and, well, can sometimes forget things. Well, there is still time to purchase your Highlands Summer Festival Season Pass at pre-Christmas prices. Passes are available by calling the Highlands Summer Festival box office for details (705) 457-9933. Five production pass - \$110. The Highlands Opera Studio passes just \$67.50 for three performances. Call now, (before you forget), because the sale ends January 15.

NOTICE OF MEETING Wilberforce Agricultural Society, Annual Meeting & Supper, Sat Jan 14, 2012, Lloyd Watson Community Centre, Wilberforce, Supper 6 pm, Annual Meeting 7:30 pm, Everyone welcome. For more information call (705) 448-2683 or email info@wilberforcefair.com

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The **ROCKCLIFFE** is now hiring for Server/Bartender position. Please drop off resume or e-mail rockcliffetavern@hotmail.com

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OBITUARIES



Gina Salvatori (nee Eleuteri)

(Resident of Haliburton Lake, Ontario)

Peacefully, surrounded by her children and grandchildren at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, on Friday, December 30, 2011, at the age of 93. Predeceased by her beloved husband Frank (1984) and loving son Evo (2007). Loving mother of Eva & Warren Cresswell and daughter-in-law Judy. Very proud and loving Nonna of Melissa & Travis, Amanda & Dan, Scott & Kimberly, and Nadia. Adoring Bisnonna to Nathan, Vanessa, Kate, Kylee, Karissa, Victory, and predeceased by Aubree (2008). Gina was a loving sister-in-law, aunt, great aunt, and a true friend to many. She will be sadly missed, but her love will live on.

Visitation & Funeral Mass

Family and friends may call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523, Hwy #118, Haliburton, Ontario from 3 - 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 and on Thursday, January 5, 2012 from 10 - 11 a.m. Then to **ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH** 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, Ontario, on Thursday, January 5, 2012 for the celebration of the Funeral Mass at 12 noon. As expressions of sympathy donations may be made to St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church or the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario and would be appreciated by the family.

A Prayer

Lord, thank you so much for the gift of Gina. She taught us to love unconditionally, take care of each other, and always forgive. You have blessed her with a wonderful life, and for this, we are grateful. Her memory fills our heart with Your love, our lives with Your peace, and our homes with Your joy. Amen.

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www.communityfuneralhome.ca

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EMPLOYMENT SERVICES WILL BE COMING TO MINDEN'S OUTREACH LITERACY OFFICE (14 IGA Road Minden) on MONDAY JANUARY 23 FROM 2-3 PM WE CAN;

- HELP YOU BUILD A RESUME (OR UPDATE YOUR CURRENT ONE)
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OUTREACH LITERACY WILL BE COMING TO EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (49 Maple Ave Haliburton) on TUESDAY JANUARY 25 FROM 1-3PM WE CAN;

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Just 10 Days Left!

what's on STAGE THIS SUMMER?



Colours in the Storm

a musical by Jim Betts

Colours in the Storm is the story of Tom Thomson, one of Canada's best loved painters. But Thomson is perhaps as famous for the controversy surrounding his death as he is for the strength of his paintings. He died in mysterious circumstances in the waters of Canoe Lake. The musical is filled with lively and haunting melodies evocative of the beauty of the Highlands as we watch one man's struggle to realize his own potential.



ARSENIC & Old Lace

a comedy-farce by Joseph Kesselring

Meet Abby and Martha Brewster, the charming and innocent ladies who operate a boarding house, especially for elderly gentlemen. The two spinster sisters interview their potential boarders to ensure they will be socially and religiously "acceptable" roomers and then ... well, perhaps you'll have to discover for yourself. Their demented nephew, who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt, unwittingly assists in their schemes.



Steel Magnolias

a comedy-drama by Robert Harling

The quintessential story of friendship and trust, Steel Magnolias serves up a slice of life that's as warm and comforting as mother's apple pie with a heaping side of laughs! In the world of Truvy's local-home-grown beauty salon, six very different women come together to share their secrets, fears and love for one another while engaging the audience in hysterical, neighbourly gossip.



Sweetheart

The Mary Pickford Story

a one woman musical by Dean Burry

The dark side of celebrity... a new technology which changed the way we saw the world... the Canadian who came to dominate an industry. The story of silent film star Mary Pickford. Hollywood in the 1920's was a one-woman show, and one of Canada's own was the number one game in town. In a time when everyone wanted "cute", nothing would stop Toronto-born Gladys Smith from sky rocketing through the ranks to become the most famous face on the planet.



Within Reach

Directed by Scot Denton

This performance, created by the Highlands Summer Festival, is a poignant and sometimes hilarious look at the history of education for young women. This collective work by young performers of Haliburton County, a rare and thoughtful combination of dance, theatre and music, explores the journey for women as they look for an education "equal to that of their brothers" and celebrates where they are today.

Opera, Opera Opera



Master Classes

An opportunity to hear what makes a great opera performance even better as Highlands Opera Studio participants receive a public adjudication from an opera professional.

Richard Margison and Friends

A fund-raising concert featuring a variety of outstanding Musical Professionals at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. This is an annual fund raiser for the Highlands Opera Studio.

Excerpts Concerts

The participants in the Highlands Opera Studio present some of the best loved works from the world of opera. Hear solos, duets and ensemble selections from famous operas from around the world. A different program for each of the three concerts. Third concert is in conjunction with The Forest Festival and to be held at the fabulous outdoor amphitheatre on Bone Lake in the Haliburton Forest.

la tragédie de carmen

Peter Brook, one of the greatest theatre directors of the 20th century, adapted Bizet's most popular opera and depicts a more intense and immediate tale of the doomed Carmen. La Tragédie distills the action of Carmen to its dramatic essence, focusing the story on the psychological motivations of the opera's principal characters.

The Magic Flute

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

When a prince wanders into a strange land, he is asked by the grief-stricken queen to rescue her daughter, Pamina, who has been imprisoned by a tyrant, Sarastro. To aid him in his search, she gives the prince a magic flute and sends along the comical bird man, Papageno. Throughout the fantastical journey there are serpents to slay, animals to tame, and trials by fire and water all unfolding to the wonderful music of Mozart.

Season Pass SALE

Enjoy a Great Summer of
Drama, Comedy & Music

Highlands Summer Festival Season Pass

**All 5 Shows
Only \$110.**

Highlands Opera Studio Season Pass Only \$67.⁵⁰

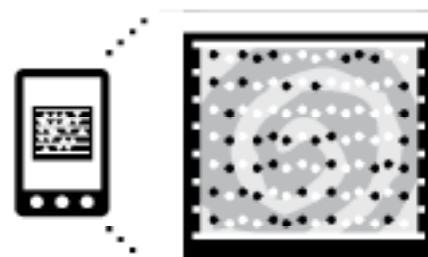
Includes 1 Excerpts Concert, La Tragédie
de Carmen & The Magic Flute

**Sale ends
January 15th, 2012**

Call the box office 705.457.9933

All performances take place at the
Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion (NLPAP)
at the High School in Haliburton, unless otherwise
noted. Excerpts Concerts take place at St. George's
Anglican Church, Haliburton and Bone Lake
Amphitheatre, Haliburton Forest and
Wild Life Reserve.

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do something
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